



# B-RAP

## Business **RECYCLING** Assistance Program

# news

Waste Management Information for South Carolina Businesses

Fall 2002

### Dear Reader...

Welcome to the inaugural issue of "B-RAP News," a quarterly publication designed to provide business leaders throughout the state with useful information on ways they can improve their company's waste management efficiency, including saving money and reducing their environmental impact. "B-RAP News" is just one of many tools designed by the Business Recycling Assistance Program (B-RAP) to fulfill its mission to provide FREE technical assistance for business and industry in South Carolina to foster waste reduction, recycling, recycling market development and buying products made from recycled content.

As a former "Options" subscriber, we hope you will enjoy the expanded coverage we intend to provide. In addition to stories on the state's latest environmental news, we plan to include a business case study, "Hot Topics" and revolving articles on a variety of subjects, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WasteWise program, Brownfields projects, buying recycled and energy conservation in every issue. We also will publish answers to questions we receive that may be of use to you in your waste management activities.

Please contact me with your comments and suggestions, by phone **(803) 737-0239** or by e-mail at **kowens@teamsc.com**. You also can mail your correspondence to B-RAP, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

Thanks again. I look forward to helping your business reduce waste, conserve valuable resources and save money.

**Karen Owens**, B-RAP Manager

## B-RAP helps S.C. businesses reduce waste, recycle

In South Carolina, nearly 40 percent of the solid waste being generated comes from business and industry. To reduce the 1.5 million tons generated by this sector, it was apparent that more work needed to be done to convince business leaders of the critical need to not only reduce the amount of waste they were generating, but also look for ways to promote waste prevention and recycling as well.

The Business Recycling Assistance Program (B-RAP) was established last fall to provide South Carolina businesses with free technical assistance to help accomplish these goals. A collaborative effort between the S.C. Department of Commerce (DoC) and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), the program offers the expertise and experience of several groups within these two agencies to counsel businesses on ways to reduce waste, recycle materials, foster recycling market development and promote buying products made from recycled content. All partners are non-regulatory and information provided by businesses during site visits remains confidential.

"With relatively low tipping fees in our state, getting businesses to buy into the importance of reducing waste and recycling is a challenge," said Ted Campbell, manager of Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) at DoC and one of the B-RAP partners. "However, if the benefits of lowering disposal costs, increasing energy savings and purchasing less products or materials can be presented to business leaders in an effective manner, we believe more businesses can be convinced to change their waste management practices."

For years, many businesses did not think about what they were doing with the waste they generated. Many simply had systems in place to haul the trash away. But as more people became savvy about waste reduction, recycling and pollution prevention, some S.C. companies have taken a serious look at how they manage waste.

"Since 1991, DHEC's Center for Waste Minimization (CWM) has visited numerous plants throughout the state to provide free and confidential consultations on how businesses could reduce the environmental impact of how they were doing business," said Bob Burgess, manager of CWM and another B-RAP partner. "By working together with DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (another B-RAP partner) and RMDAC, we can offer a more comprehensive approach to helping business by using the various skills we all bring to the table."

- The CWM staff has more than 75 years of combined experience in the manufacturing sector, with experience not only in solid waste issues but also in air and water quality.
- DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling has provided extensive educational tools and technical assistance for local governments, state agencies, schools and colleges and other organizations committed to implementing waste reduction and recycling programs since its inception in 1992.

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## ***B-RAP Helps***, *continued*

- RMDAC, managed within DoC, supports programs and policies to create markets for recyclable materials as well as provides economic development assistance to recycling businesses, industry and other organizations.

B-RAP also relies on two other important DHEC programs, the Small Business Assistance Program and the Voluntary Cleanup Program, which promotes the redevelopment of Brownfields sites, to offer business leaders with a broad spectrum of assistance tools.

"The types of assistance we provide can vary as well," added William W. Culler, director of DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling. "Staff may be able to answer questions by phone or over the Internet, or we can make visits to the business' facility for a comprehensive review of its operations."

Since the program was established last fall, B-RAP has assisted more than two-dozen companies. "In some cases, we assisted companies with existing waste reduction programs in place, helping them fine tune or expand their efforts to prevent waste and increase recycling," Culler said. "We also consulted on some start-up efforts to get programs established."

In fact, B-RAP has developed a publication for implementing waste reduction programs at work entitled "It's Everyone's Business: A How-To-Guide for Implementing Waste Reduction Programs for South Carolina Businesses." The workbook, along with any additional training, is available for FREE from B-RAP as well as county recycling coordinators located throughout the state.

To learn more about B-RAP and its services, visit [www.scdhec.net/brap](http://www.scdhec.net/brap) or call Karen Owens, project manager at (803)737-0239 or 1-800-768-7348.

### **About this newsletter...**

**Editor:** Karen Owens. **Assistant Editor:** Richard Chesley. **Layout/Design:** Gregg Glymph.

"B-RAP News" is published quarterly by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Center for Waste Minimization and Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling as well as the S.C. Commerce Department's Recycling Market Development Advisory Council.

This publication is printed on **RECYCLED** paper.

## **Nearly \$1 million secured for S.C. Brownfields program**

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) received a \$900,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in May to expand its Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund.

The fund is available to any business or individual who agrees to enter the Voluntary Cleanup Program as a non-responsible party to redevelop Brownfields sites, according to Gail Rawls Jeter, DHEC's state Brownfields coordinator.

Brownfields are abandoned, idled or underused industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. Examples in S.C. include defunct textile plants that sit in the heart of many small towns.

"By securing this new funding, we will be able to expand our focus statewide to address areas of socioeconomic distress and places where environmental justice issues exist," Jeter said. "Projects funded through this program will help these sites be addressed sooner, allowing communities to experience both economic and aesthetic revitalization by reusing these still valuable properties."

The fund provides a below-market interest loan to local governments, businesses and public and private parties to finance environmental cleanup activities at Brownfields properties across the state. The U.S. EPA awards this grant in hopes of providing financial assistance to parties willing to address sites with environmental issues in order to redevelop them, bringing them back into the tax base and revitalizing economically depressed communities.

The counties of Abbeville, Anderson, Greenville, Kershaw and Spartanburg along with the towns of Bluffton, Johnston, Lyman, Ware Shoals and Yemassee and the cities of Anderson and Greenville currently have funding from the revolving loan fund. The former Arcade Mill site in Rock Hill may be one of the sites to benefit from the statewide expansion of the Brownfields cleanup program. It consists of an abandoned textile mill destroyed by fire, a machine shop and a chemical storage warehouse.

Businesses interested in learning more about the Brownfields cleanup program may contact Jeter at **(803) 896-4069**. Priority is given to proposals that include sustainable redevelopment plans, potential for job creation and benefits for the community.

**Pictured:** This grocery store/shopping center, located in Northeast Columbia off Two-Notch Road, was constructed on a former Brownfield location. The previous business participated in DHEC's Brownfield program to clean up the site.



## Case Study: SMI Steel

Located in Cayce, SMI Steel is a mini-mill that recycles about 700,000 tons of scrap metals a year into valuable new steel products for the construction industry. But steel isn't the only commodity being recycled at SMI. Thanks to a committed team of employees, the plant has undertaken a major environmental program that addresses reduction of both solid and hazardous waste.

The Solid Waste Task Force was established in March 1999 with a goal of reducing the amount of waste being disposed by the mill. According to Ben Kumagai, an SMI environmental technician who leads the task force, concerted efforts to reduce waste have resulted in a reduction of its 20-cubic-yard roll-off containers, from 20 to four, and work is in progress to eliminate a few more.

The task force placed recycling containers made from recycled content materials in the plant's four high-traffic areas: the melt shop; roll mill; customer service/transportation area; and the administrative offices. The plant works with Paper Stock Dealers/Sonoco to find markets for its office paper, cardboard and plastic bottles while employees sell collected aluminum cans to benefit an emergency fund for employees.



SMI also recycles wooden pallets with a Pelion-based recycler. Pallets that are too damaged for recycling and dunnage that is used to separate steel bundles are made available for employees to use as firewood. "Every precaution is made to ensure nails and other debris are removed so as not to pose any hazards to our employees," Kumagai said.

A by-product of the steel-making process is the production of fine particulate matter. These particles are primarily composed of iron oxides, lime and some other trace metals, all of which are found in the original scrap. These emissions are collected in a very large emission control system and air evacuation system comprised of large duct work and a fabric filter bag house. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has designated this dust to be a listed hazardous waste, K061. SMI sends this waste off site for metals reclamation.

The melting process also generates a heavier material, primarily metal pieces and limestone, which are removed in an engineered chamber called a "drop-out box (DOBM)." The drop-out box is in-line with the air evacuation duct work but removes the heavier, larger pieces immediately after the emissions exit the furnace prior to entering the fabric filter bag house. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) deemed DOBM to be K061, even though it is not hazardous. DHEC allowed SMI to engineer an environmentally protective system to recycle this material back to the furnace. On average, SMI generates between 800-1,000 tons of DOBM annually. By recycling this material, SMI saves valuable hazardous waste landfill space.

The U.S. EPA determined in July 2001 that the DOBM is not K061 and DHEC concurred. SMI, however, continues to recycle this DOBM to recover the metals for the steel-making process.

## Hot Topics

### ELECTRONICS RECYCLING BILL UPDATE

Some progress was made in promoting the Electronics Recycling Bill (S-1031, H-5009) among committee members in the Senate and House this year; however, the legislature's focus on the budget shortfall and a letter from Hewlett Packard put the resolution on hold until the next legislative session.

Ted Campbell with the S.C. Department of Commerce has met with Senator Phil Leventis and they are working with representatives from the computer industry to move forward with plans to encourage this legislation that would establish an advanced fee on computer purchases. The fee, similar to existing fees in S.C. on tires, appliances, oil and lead-acid batteries, would be used to develop an infrastructure in the state to collect, process and recycle used computer components.

Electronic waste is growing at a rapid rate and materials such as lead in cathode ray tube (CRT) monitors and mercury can pose serious public health concerns if disposed improperly.

### B-RAP HOLDS TRAINING FOR COUNTY RECYCLING COORDINATORS

B-RAP in conjunction with the Horry County Solid Waste Authority held a day-long training for the state's recycling coordinators and solid waste administrators to promote recycling to businesses and industry throughout South Carolina.

B-RAP unveiled its new guidebook, "It's Everyone's Business," at the workshop and provided participants with a step-by-step approach to implementing a waste reduction program. Coordinators also heard how Mecklenburg County, N.C., has enacted a business recycling ordinance.

To learn more about implementing waste management strategies at your business, contact Karen Owens, B-RAP project manager, at **(803) 737-0239**.

### CRA PLANS 2003 MEETING

The Carolina Recycling Association (CRA) has started planning for its annual meeting, scheduled for March 18-21, 2003, at the Hyatt Regency in Greenville.

*Continued on the following page*



CRA is one of the largest state-based recycling associations in the nation, serving North and South Carolina. It provides educational, networking and advocacy opportunities for its members to advance waste reduction and recycling programs and policies.

Mark your calendars and look for more information on CRA in upcoming issues of "B-RAP News."

#### GREEN BUILDING WORKSHOP PLANNED FOR CHARLESTON

CRA is hosting an educational workshop on Green Building and Sustainable Design on **October 4 from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.** at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Green building design and construction provides an ecological approach to building affordable, sustainable housing as well as community and public facilities. It can improve occupant comfort and health, save owner operating dollars and limit the detrimental effects of buildings on the environment.

Information presented includes: promoting sustainability through the

Evergreen Network; transforming power plant ash into a renewable building product; using green building technology in renovations at historic College of Charleston; the activities of The Sustainability Institute; and tours of green building projects completed in the Charleston area.

The workshop will be held in the Administration Library Building at MUSC. Cost of the workshop is \$15 for CRA members and \$20 for nonmembers. Lunch and parking will be provided. For more information or to register by phone, call the CRA office at **(919) 545-9050**.

#### CRA MIDLANDS NETWORKING COUNCIL FORMED

More than 30 people representing businesses, local governments, Fort Jackson, University of South Carolina and other organizations interested in waste reduction and recycling have joined together to form the Midlands Regional Networking Committee for the CRA.

Led by Jane Hiller of Paper Stock Dealers/Sonoco in Columbia, the group provides a valuable networking

opportunity for these groups to discuss and develop projects designed to tackle a variety of waste related issues, including telephone book, business and electronics recycling as well as household hazardous materials.

For information about the council and to participate, call Hiller at **(803) 779-0608**.

#### B-RAP AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE NOVEMBER 1

Nominations for the best business or industry recycling award along with a new award recognizing a public sector entity (local government, state agency, college or university) that has facilitated business recycling are now being accepted through November 1, 2002.

Winners of the B-RAP awards will be announced during the Recycle Guys Awards Ceremony, scheduled for January 24, 2003, at Seawell's Restaurant in Columbia. To receive a nomination form, contact DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling at **1-800-768-7348** or visit [www.scdhec/net/recycle](http://www.scdhec/net/recycle).